**Unemployment among minorities in urban areas**

2811. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of unemployed or semi-employed people in urban areas belong to the minority community;

(b) whether any survey has been done to see whether the scheme made by her Ministry reaches these section; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the NGOs, minority institutions and media are involved in propagating these schemes among the most deprived sections of the minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation has not carried out any such survey in the urban areas with specific reference to minority communities. However, as the poverty alleviation scheme of this Ministry is targeted towards urban poor living below the poverty line, it includes the urban poor population of minority communities.

(c) The publicity of the poverty alleviation schemes is carried out through pamphlets, audio-visual programmes, Seminars/workshops etc. by the States/Union Territories Governments, urban local bodies and other implementing agencies. The target audience for these publicity programmes is the urban poor population living in deprived conditions is the urban poor population living in deprived conditions in cities/towns in the urban areas in the country.

**National Policy on Hawkers**

2812. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court has asked Government to submit a blueprint of its proposed National Policy on Hawkers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATF OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN

EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court asked the Government to file the Counter Affidavit along with National Policy on Hawkers/Vendors formulated by the Ministry of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation in case No. CA4156-57/2002 with w.p. No. 335 to 337/2004, Mumbai Hawkers Union Vs Union of India and others. The Counter Affidavit has been filed alongwith a copy of the "National Policy on Urban Street Vendors". The overarching objective of the National Policy is to provide and promote a supportive environment for earning livelihood to the street vendors and to ensure congestion free and hygienic public places/ streets as well. The guidelines of the National Policy have been framed to ensure that the street vendors find due recognition for their contribution to the society, with appropriate provisions/support from the Government/other agencies so that they can lead a dignified life. A copy of the Policy was circulated on 11th February 2004 to all the States/UTs with the request to implement the guidelines, with or without change, to suit the local conditions with due respect to any court decisions which may impinge on the issue. All the States/UTs are being reminded to furnish the status of the action taken in the matter since then.

**Statistical data on housing**

2813. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether housing is one of the important indicator of economic health of the country;

(b) if so, whether a reliable and verifiable housing statistics is available in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether it is proposed to put in place an agency for preparing and monitoring such statistics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The housing statistics in the country is collected at both National and State level by office of Registrar General of India